

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the present application. The Office Action dated July 21, 2003, has been reviewed and its contents carefully reviewed. Claims 1-38 are currently pending in the present application, claims 10-14, 19-21, 27-31, and 35 having been withdrawn from consideration in view of the Election of Species Requirement dated March 26, 2003. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter. Applicants hereby amend claim 5 to be in independent form to include the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicant hereby provides new Figures 11A and 11B to show the features recited by claim 5 of the present application. Both a replacement sheet and annotated sheet showing changes is included herewith.

In the Office Action dated July 21, 2003, claims 1-4, 6-7, 15, 22-24, 32-34, and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,441,873 to Young et al. ("Young"). Claims 8-9, 16-18, 25-26, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Applicant's Related Art Figure 5. Applicant hereby traverses these rejections for the reasons set forth below.

The rejection of claims 1-4, 6-7 and 15 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-4, 6-7 and 15 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a pixel electrode in one of the pixel regions on the first substrate, the pixel electrode having a slit therethrough and side edge portions, the side edge portions being bent." None of the cited references including Young, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 1 of the present application is different from the Young structure in that the slit as recited by the present claims is through the pixel electrode, whereas the depressions cited by the Examiner do not extend through the pixel

electrode. Applicant submits that this feature of the present claims was inherent to the “slit” recited by claim 1 as filed. However, for the purposes of expediting prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 1 to explicitly recite the feature that the slit extends through the pixel electrode. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-4, 6-7, and 15, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 8-9, which depend from claim 1 is also traversed. These claims are rejected over the combination of Young and Applicant’s Related Art Figure 5. Related Art Figures 1-5 are provided in the application for context and to aid in understanding of the present invention. Applicant makes no admission as to prior art with respect to these Figures. Without reaching the merits of the prior art nature of Figure 5, Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Figure 5 do not cure the deficiencies of the primary reference, Young. That is, Figure 5 fails to teach or suggest “a pixel electrode in one of the pixel regions on the first substrate, the pixel electrode having a slit therethrough and side edge portions, the side edge portions being bent,” as recited by at least claim 1 of the present application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-9 are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 16-18 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Independent claim 16 is allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a pixel electrode in one of the pixel regions on the first substrate, the pixel electrode having a slit therethrough and side edge portions, the side edge portions being bent.” None of the cited references including Young and Related Art, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 16 of the present application is different from the Young structure in that the slit as recited by the present claims is through the pixel electrode, whereas the depressions cited by the Examiner do not extend through the pixel electrode. Applicant submits that this feature of the present claims was inherent to the “slit” recited by claim 16 as filed. However, for the purposes of expediting prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 16 to explicitly recite the feature that the slit extends through the pixel electrode. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 and claims 17-18, which depend from claim 16, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 8-9, which depend from claim 1 is also traversed. These claims are rejected over the combination of Young and Applicant's Related Art Figure 5. Related Art Figures 1-5 are provided in the application for context and to aid in understanding of the present invention. Applicant makes no admission as to prior art with respect to these Figures. Without reaching the merits of the prior art nature of Figure 5, Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Figure 5 do not cure the deficiencies of the primary reference, Young. That is, Figure 5 fails to teach or suggest "a pixel electrode in one of the pixel regions on the first substrate, the pixel electrode having a slit therethrough and side edge portions, the side edge portions being bent," as recited by at least claim 1 of the present application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-9 are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 22-24 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Independent claim 22 and dependent claims 22-24 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a pixel electrode positioned on the second substrate in one of the pixel regions, opposing the common electrode, and including a slit therethrough and side edge portions, the side edge portions being bent toward the first substrate." None of the cited references including Young, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 22 of the present application is different from the Young structure in that the slit as recited by the present claims is through the pixel electrode, whereas the depressions cited by the Examiner do not extend through the pixel electrode. Applicant submits that this feature of the present claims was inherent to the "slit" recited by claim 22 as filed. However, for the purposes of expediting prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 22 to explicitly recite the feature that the slit extends through the pixel electrode. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 and claims 23-24, which depend from claim 22, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 25-26, which depend from claim 22 is also traversed. These claims are rejected over the combination of Young and Applicant's Related Art Figure 5. Related Art Figures 1-5 are provided in the application for context and to aid in understanding of the present invention. Applicant makes no admission as to prior art with respect to these Figures. Without reaching the merits of the prior art nature of Figure 5, Applicant respectfully

submits that the teachings of Figure 5 do not cure the deficiencies of the primary reference, Young. That is, Figure 5 fails to teach or suggest “a pixel electrode positioned on the second substrate in one of the pixel regions, opposing the common electrode, and including a slit therethrough and side edge portions, the side edge portions being bent toward the first substrate,” as recited by at least claim 22 of the present application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 25-26 are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 32-34 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Independent claim 32 and dependent claims 33-34 and 36-37 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a pixel electrode located on the inner surface of the second substrate in one of the pixel regions, the pixel electrode having a slit therethrough and further having a first portion a first distance from the common electrode and a second portion a second distance from the common electrode.” None of the cited references including Young, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 32 of the present application is different from the Young structure in that the slit as recited by the present claims is through the pixel electrode, whereas the depressions cited by the Examiner do not extend through the pixel electrode. Applicant submits that this feature of the present claims was inherent to the “slit” recited by claim 32 as filed. However, for the purposes of expediting prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 32 to explicitly recite the feature that the slit extends through the pixel electrode. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 and claims 33-34, which depend from claim 32, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claim 38, which depend from claim 32 is also traversed. These claims are rejected over the combination of Young and Applicant's Related Art Figure 5. Related Art Figures 1-5 are provided in the application for context and to aid in understanding of the present invention. Applicant makes no admission as to prior art with respect to these Figures. Without reaching the merits of the prior art nature of Figure 5, Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Figure 5 do not cure the deficiencies of the primary reference, Young. That is, Figure 5 fails to teach or suggest “a pixel electrode located on the inner surface of the second substrate in one of the pixel regions, the pixel electrode having a slit therethrough and further having a first portion a first distance from the common electrode and a second

portion a second distance from the common electrode," as recited by at least claim 38 of the present application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 38 is allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: October 21, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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portion a second distance from the common electrode," as recited by at least claim 38 of the present application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 38 is allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

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Dated: October 21, 2003

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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

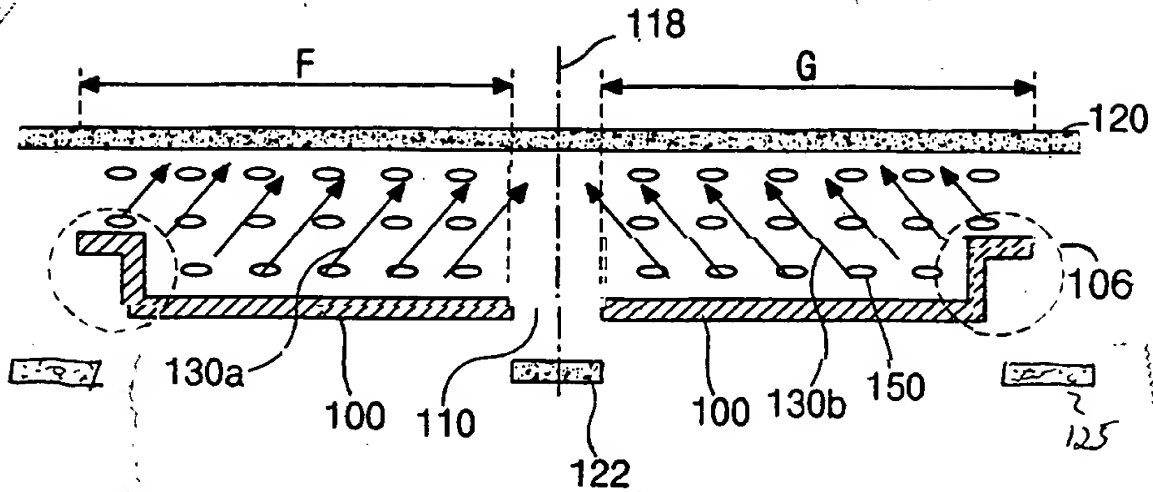


FIG. 11A

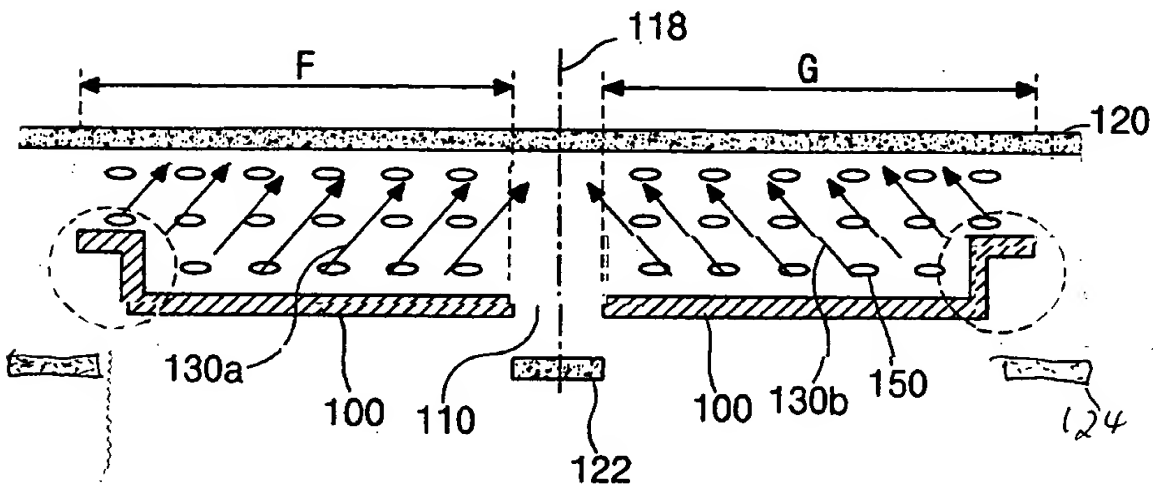


FIG. 11B

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Replacement Sheet

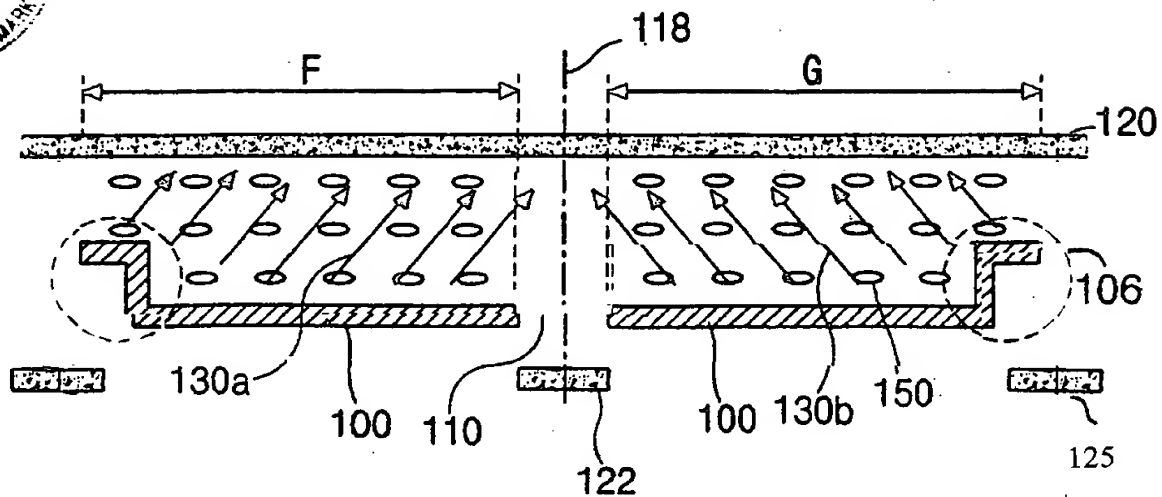


FIG. 11A

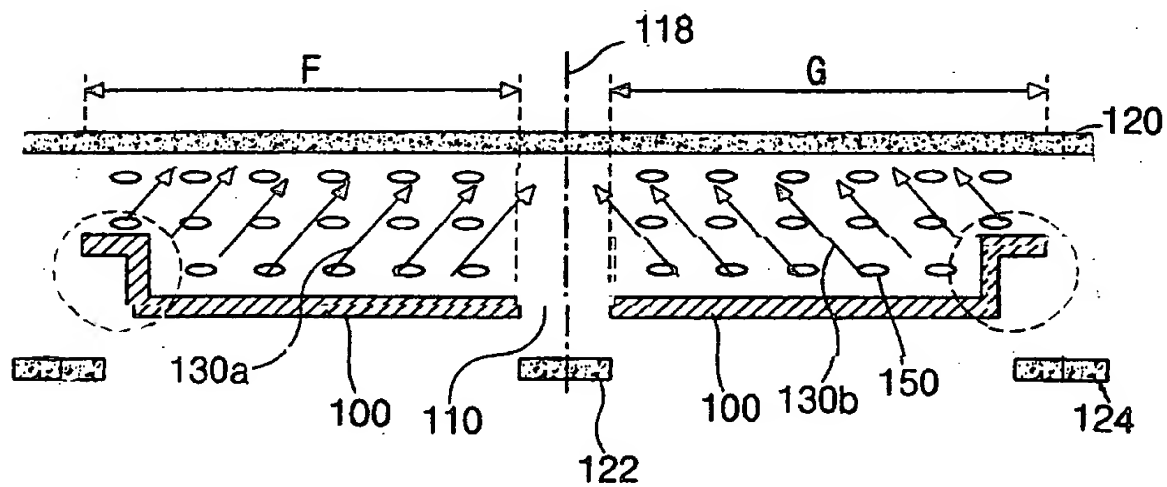


FIG. 11B